



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

June 8, 2011, 3:30 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:

(402) 471-0900 nema.jic@nebraska.gov

Nebraska JIC Daily Update

All times are CDT, unless otherwise noted

** New Items and items with changes are listed in Red**

State officials were briefed by Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant representatives following a report of smoke in a cabinet at the plant Tuesday.

“From my perspective all systems and safety precautions operated correctly,” said Al Berndt, assistant director of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. “That’s why we plan and exercise with power plants every year.”

NEMA is still in hourly contact with officials at Ft. Calhoun because of an earlier Notification of Unusual Event declared by the plant in response to flooding.

According to plant officials there was no damage to the plant's nuclear reactor which was shut down April 9 for refueling and has not been restarted because of Missouri River flooding.

Flood-related resources and links can be found on the NEMA website at www.nema.nebraska.gov

Español información –(Spanish language information):

Para información de las inundaciones en Español, por favor usa estos recursos (For flood information in Spanish please use these resources):

Website Resources - En Español

[Regreso al hogar después de un huracán o una inundación](#)

[Cómo reparar su hogar inundado](#)

[Planificación y la Recuperación Después de un Desastre](#)

[Manual de Reclamación para Seguros Contra Inundaciones](#)

Cruz Roja Americana <http://www.cruzrojaamericana.org/general.asp?SN=200&OP=216&SUOP=245>

State Response

Residents should stay tuned to local news and follow directions from local and state officials.

The Coast Guard restriction on recreational boats on the Missouri River along the Nebraska-Iowa border remains in effect.

Flood Hotline

A Nebraska Emergency Management Agency public information phone line, (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2454, will be staffed from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, including weekends**. The hotline is busy, please be patient.

Weather

For updated weather information weather: www.noaa.gov and www.weather.com

Nebraska Department of Roads Information

Current road information is available from the Nebraska Department of Roads at: www.511.nebraska.gov. Citizens are encouraged to find alternate routes. Do not drive over any road that is covered with flood waters. Do not remove road closure barricades. Barricades are in place for your safety.

State Road closures:

Highway 30 – closed east of North Platte from mile marker 181 to 191

Highway 92 – closed from mile marker 164-203

Highway 12 – closed from Verdel to Niobrara from mile marker 151-158 and from east edge of Niobrara to Santee spur #S54D.

Intersection of NE highways 12 & 14 near Niobrara

Railroad information toll-free telephone lines

Burlington Northern Santa Fe – 1-800-832-5452 select #3

Union Pacific Response Management Communications Center (RMCC) at 888-877-7267.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Joint Information Center – (402) 996-3877 www.nwo.usace.army.mil email: MRJIC@usace.mil

Federal Emergency Management Agency

If you are not sure if you are in flood-prone area, check out the FEMA map service center:

<http://msc.fema.gov> **Flood insurance claims** -- According to a FEMA official, existing flood insurance policy claims will be paid regardless of how the flooding was caused. For most new flood insurance policies there is a 30-day waiting period.

Local Health Departments

Every county in Nebraska is served by a local health department. A listing of health departments and the counties they serve is available at: www.dhhs.ne.gov/puh/oph/lhd.htm

Behavioral Health

Natural disasters often lead to prolonged emotional and physical stress which are common reactions when recovering from storm or flood damage. People should take care of themselves during this stressful time. Get plenty of rest. Stay connected with family and friends, and support each other. If stress is interfering with day-to-day life, it may be time to seek help. If you or someone you know is suffering from signs of stress due to flooding in your area, call the **NEMA Public Information Hotline** at **(855) 211-2453** or **(855) 211-2454**. The operators can provide you with information on mental health crisis counseling and other services.

Animal Health

Flood waters displace wild animals as well as humans. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) warns people that wildlife may act abnormally due to the stress of displacement. As animals interact and compete for the same resources, diseases such as rabies have an increased chance of

transmission. DHHS always recommends avoiding direct contact with wild animals; however, under these circumstances they may be in unexpected places and act more aggressively.

Flood waters may also displace reptiles such as snakes and turtles. Information on reptiles indigenous to Nebraska can be found at <http://snr.unl.edu/herpneb/>.

Evacuations

Be safe and listen to public officials. Please evacuate if told to do so.

Washington County: Mandatory evacuations ordered. Some evacuations are voluntary. 150-180 people evacuated

Burt County: 40-50 people evacuated

Richardson County: Some voluntary north of Rulo.

Nemaha County: Voluntary evacuations from low land.

Cass County: Lake Waconda 40-110 homes.

Sarpy County: Iske Park and Elbow Bend some voluntarily, 6-12 homes all voluntary leaving.

Dixon County: 40-50 people evacuated. Potential evacuations of large portions of the town of Newcastle and Ponca.

Dakota County: Some voluntarily. Several apartments, condominiums and houses in northern half of South Sioux City. Northeast Community College, Wayne State College satellite campus and several businesses have evacuated.

Lincoln County: Some voluntary evacuations

Thurston County: 12 people evacuated from Macy

Boyd County: 4 people evacuated

Knox County: 4 homes evacuated

Shelters/ Red Cross

Open Shelters:

South Sioux City Shelter – has opened at 3625 G St. in the South Sioux City Middle School. This shelter is now open every day 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fort Calhoun – Fort Calhoun High School, 1506 Lincoln Street, is again open as a 24 hr shelter due to increased need.

Macy – Omaha Nation Public School, 101 Main St., Macy

Murray – Conestoga Public Schools, 104 East High St.

Newcastle – Newcastle High School, 509 Annie St.

North Platte – Adams Middle School, 1200 S. McDonald

Thurston – Omaha, Nation Public School, 100 Main St. Macy

Wynot – Wynot Public School, 709 S. James St.

For more information check www.redcross.org or call **1-800-RedCross** to find the chapter serving your area. Call **211** (human services helpline) to find out what resources are available; or visit the United Way of Midlands 211 website at <http://www.ne211.org> an additional number is **(402) 444-6666**.

County Updates:

Several counties have declared disasters; Knox, Dakota, Burt, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, Cass and Lincoln. Washington and Burt: Power was turned off to flooded areas and several roads are closed

Knox: Several roads underwater.

Dixon: Several roads underwater and cell service is not working and there are no land lines in the area.

Douglas: South Omaha waste treatment facility is offline and pumping 10 cubic feet per second into the river.

Otoe County: Declared a disaster June 5.

Boyd County update: Some home septic systems are being affected.

Water Testing

Well owners should take the following steps if they believe their well will be impacted:

- Before taking the well out of service, store a supply of clean water;
- Disconnect the power supply for the well. Consult a Nebraska-licensed well driller or pump installer if help is needed;
- Perform actions necessary to make the well water-tight, including removing the well vent and replacing it with a water-tight plug, and sealing any visible joint openings with water-tight caulking or equivalent material;
- Cover the top of the well with a heavy-duty plastic trash bag or equivalent protective covering and tightly secure it, making it as water-tight as possible to keep out dirt, debris and contaminants.

Sealing won't eliminate the need for testing and possible disinfection, but it will provide the best chance for the well to come on-line quickly and minimize repair costs and maintenance.

Flood Clean Up Scams

Homeowners and businesses that have experienced flooding are asked to remain vigilant when it comes to hiring services or purchasing goods. For tips on avoiding home repair scams, please visit the Nebraska Better Business Bureau's website at www.bbb.org or the Attorney General's website at www.ago.ne.gov. If you feel you have been a victim of a clean-up or home improvement scam, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (800) 727-6432.

Insurance

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is the state agency to contact regarding flooding insurance. (402) 471-7405 or (402) 471-3932. Flood insurance claims -- According to a FEMA official, flood insurance is available and policy claims will be covered regardless of how a flood is caused.

Fire Safety

The State Fire Marshal reminds citizens that if your power is out, and you need to use a generator, ensure your generator has been tested, approved and is in proper working order. Try not to overload circuits and continue to be cautious when there's a threat of lightning.

Additional Resources

Phone Numbers

Nebraska Flooding Hotline: Toll Free (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2452 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Nebraska Department of Insurance (877) 564-7323

Iowa Flooding Response (515) 725-3231 or **Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985**

South Dakota (605) 773-3132 or toll free at (877) 579-0015

US Army Corps of Engineers – Information Center (402) 996-3877

Web Sites

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency website www.nema.nebraska.gov

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' website has a comprehensive listing of flood resources at: www.dhhs.ne.gov/flooding/

Weather: www.weather.gov

River Levels: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps/>
NEMA on Face book: <http://www.facebook.com/nema.page>
Nebraska Department of Roads www.511.nebraska.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website - www.nwo.usace.army.mil
Red Cross: www.redcrossomaha.org
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension: <http://www.extension.org/category/floods>

Missouri River — County Updates

Boyd County: Private wells are being contaminated in the areas that are flooding in Sunshine Bottoms which has been evacuated. There are concerns about phone service due to no cell service near the river and now numerous phone lines are under water.

Cass County: Voluntary evacuations are still taking place at Lake WaConDa. Two pumps and 100,000 sandbags arrived Tuesday. Volunteers will be filling sandbags on Saturday morning. Plattsmouth has sandbagged the water treatment plant, well field and sewer plant. Arrangements have been made to open a shelter at Conestoga Public School if it becomes necessary. Cass County Emergency Management Agency is operating in emergency mode and is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Cedar County: Received first information of river coming out of its banks near Aten.

Dakota County: Residents in the private residential area of Olson's Landing have hired a private contractor to come in and attempt bank stabilization and/or levee construction. In Dakota City a levee is being built and six pumps have been requested for storm water outlets. The lagoon and the lift station are having issues with ground water. The ground water will affect the entire sewer system in Jackson due to lift station issues. County officials are working with the Red Cross to establish a shelter which will be available when needed.

Dixon County: It is unlikely that entire towns will need to be evacuated. The emergency manager is reporting that there are 40-50 summer seasonal homes that were evacuated, but they are secondary residences and will not require sheltering needs.

Douglas County: Work will continue until the levee is done on Wednesday. Areas affected by flooding are: NP Dodge Park, Freedom Park, Lewis and Clark landing and the waste water treatment plant.

Knox County: Highway 12 is closed. Work is still being done on Highway 14. There are 180 vacation homes and 20 permanent residents between Verdel and Niobrara that have voluntarily evacuated. In addition, one home east of Niobrara has been evacuated. No shelter has been needed and no long-term shelter needs are anticipated.

Nemaha County: Sandbagging operations are nearly completed.

Otoe County: Sandbagging continues at the Nebraska City waste water and Omaha Public Power District plant.

Richardson County: Volunteers are now working with city and county personnel to place sandbags. They are still in the process of making preparation to protect the water system. **The county emergency manager sent a disaster declaration to NEMA Monday.**

Platte River — County Updates

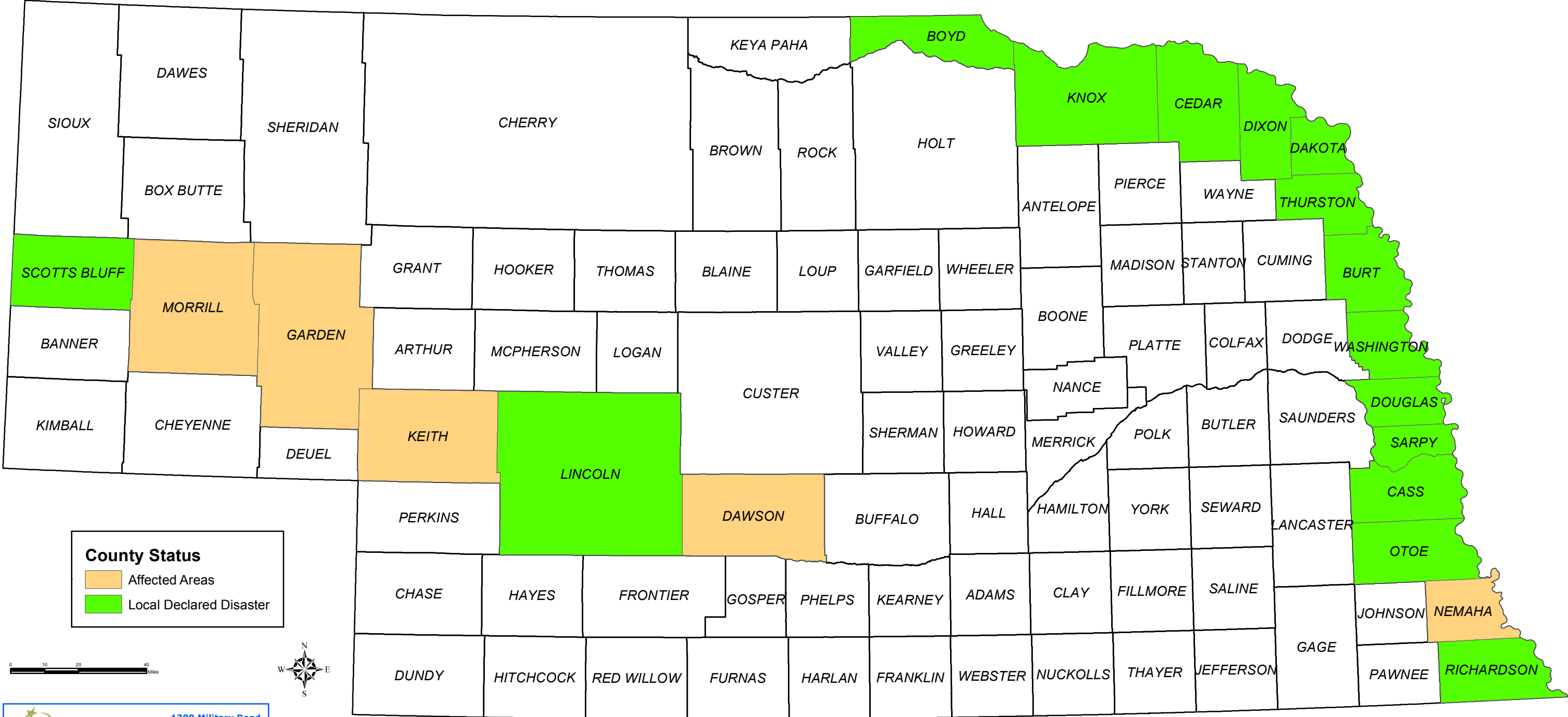
Scotts Bluff County declared a disaster because of flooding throughout the county. Emergency managers continue to monitor the river around Terrytown.

Lincoln County: Areas affected by flooding and road closures are Highway 30 east, North River Road at North Platte and north of Sutherland, North Airport road, East Long School Road, Highway 83 and areas east and north of North Platte.

###

2011 FLOODING COUNTIES AFFECTED

JUNE 8, 2011



County Status

- Affected Areas
- Local Declared Disaster

0 10 20 40 Miles



NEBRASKA
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

1300 Military Road
Lincoln, NE, 68508
(402) 471-7421
1-877-297-2368